



Newsletter 12.03.2021

Issue 19

Message from Mr Inglis, Head of School

Almost to the day 12 months ago, we had just completed our first positive Ofsted monitoring visit and it's incredible to look back and think of how the following year unfolded. A whole new language has been become embedded in education, from 'lockdown' to 'social distancing', 'face coverings', 'bubbles', 'hand sanitisers', 'critical workers', 'centre assessed grades', 'live lessons' and more recently, 'lateral flow testing' and 'asymptomatic testing sites'. As the third national lockdown eases and the full compliment of our pupils return to school again, I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank all parents/carers and pupils for your support for the school during this extremely challenging year.

This week has seen the phased return of all pupils for their first voluntary lateral flow test followed by face to face teaching; we have been delighted to welcome our pupils back again. Over 593 tests have been undertaken with just one positive result that did not affect other pupils or staff. This complex process of running two testing facilities onsite whilst delivering both remote and face to face teaching simultaneously has gone incredibly smoothly and I am pleased to report that the mature approach from pupils, both online and onsite, has been exemplary at all times.

Parents In Partnership

E Safety-Overwatch

Overwatch is a team-based multiplayer first-person shooter developed and published by Blizzard Entertainment, the same company behind the likes of World of Warcraft and StarCraft. The online-only game, which is available to play on the Nintendo Switch, Playstation 4, Xbox One and PC, sees players face off in six-versus-six matches that emphasize both teamwork and individual skill. Players have a wide choice of characteristics to play as, each of which comes under one of four main classes or roles – Offence, Defence, Tank and Support – which each class having its own unique strengths

and weaknesses. In the UK and Europe, PEGI rates Overwatch as PEGI 12, suitable for ages 12 and up, for non-realistic-looking violence towards human characters.

Alternative Games

Parents looking for alternatives to Overwatch can consider the following games that offer similar game-making options, without masses of online strangers, could consider:

Minecraft (PEGI 7+)

Roblox (PEGI 7+)

Stardew Valley (PEGI 7+)

Lovers In a Dangerous Space Time (PEGI 7+)

Plants vs Zombies: Garden Warfare 2 (PEGI 12+)

Fortnite (PEGI 12+)

E Safety: The Deep and Dark Web

What Are the Deep Web and the Dark Web?

Since the Internet has become the go-to source for entertainment, socializing, news, information, and more, we rarely think about how it actually works. But the essential sites you visit every day or find through search engines such as Google and Yahoo are actually only a fraction of the total Web. Beyond the commonly available sites lies the Deep Web and, beyond that, the Dark Web.

The Deep Web includes perfectly benign content, including your bank account activity, Amazon address list, and even items in your social networks that you've set to "private."

But the Deep Web also includes other types of content search engines can't find -- and the idea of a "secret world" is catnip to some kids. To get in, you need a special browser ([usually Tor](#)) that allows you to travel down the Deep Web's rabbit hole anonymously. Why anonymously? Well, for various reasons, people on the Deep Web want to keep their activities out of the mainstream. Some simply don't want their data collected by the Googles of the world. Some use it to find content of dubious origin, such as bootlegged movies. And some are criminals on what is known as the Dark Web, using a combination of Tor, complex computer programming, and other sophisticated strategies to create, share, and do business illegally.

Though the Deep Web has all the makings of a thriller plot device, no one knows how big it is and how much of a threat it poses to regular people. In 2013, an [Australian teen died after taking drugs purchased on a Dark Web drug-trafficking site called Silk Road](#).

If your son downloads Tor or knows other kids who are on it, it's important to talk about the implications. The Deep Web isn't a safe place to hang out. Here are some things to discuss:

Getting in. The Internet is full of codes, hacks, and ideas for penetrating the Web's underbelly -- and lots of kids are curious about it. Keep the lines of communication open. Discuss Internet ethics, digital citizenship, and the difference between a "free Web" and illegal activity.

Recognizing warning signs. People with bad motives are good at winning your trust. Teach your son how to spot sketchy behavior -- no matter where they are -- including "[grooming](#)," asking for money, and doing anything illegal.

The Deep Web isn't for spectators. Deep Web users are experts at covering their tracks -- probably because they have reason to remain anonymous. Since illegal activity happens, even "just visiting" is risky.

Never accepting anything purchased on the Deep Web. Run, don't walk, away!

What you need to know about...

THE DEEP WEB & THE DARK WEB

What is it?
The Deep & The Dark Web
 While the deep web and the dark web do not do the same thing, they do overlap significantly. The deep web is made up of pages that are not indexed by search engines. The dark web is a part of the deep web that is specifically designed to be anonymous. It is often used for illegal activities, but it can also be used for legitimate purposes.

Know the Risks

- Unmonitored access**
 The deep web is not monitored by search engines, which means that anyone can access it. This means that anyone can find out what you are doing online, even if you are using a VPN or other security measures.
- Inappropriate content**
 The deep web is often used to host illegal content, such as child abuse material, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. It is also used to host extremist content and hate speech.
- Online predators**
 The deep web is often used by online predators to contact and groom victims. It is also used to host chat rooms and other platforms where predators can meet and communicate with their victims.

Safety Tips

- Question search results**
 If you are searching for information on the deep web, be very cautious. Search engines on the deep web are often used to host illegal content, so you should be very careful about what you click on.
- Check devices**
 Check all devices for malware. Use a VPN. Do not use a public Wi-Fi network. Do not use a mobile phone to access the deep web. Do not use a laptop to access the deep web.
- Talk about the dangers**
 If you are interested in the deep web, talk to a professional. Do not talk to anyone about the deep web. Do not talk to anyone about the dangers of the deep web. Do not talk to anyone about the risks of the deep web.

How they Work

- TOR Software**
 The onion router (TOR) network is a free, open-source software project that enables internet users to communicate anonymously. It is used to access the dark web.
- Three Web levels**
 The internet is divided into three levels: the surface web, the deep web, and the dark web. The surface web is the part of the internet that is indexed by search engines. The deep web is the part of the internet that is not indexed by search engines. The dark web is the part of the deep web that is specifically designed to be anonymous.

Our Expert
Jonathan Taylor
 Jonathan Taylor is an online safety, social media and online grooming expert who previously worked as a covert internet investigator with the Metropolitan Police for over 10 years. He has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, apps and platforms.

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What parents & carers need to know about...

OVERWATCH 12+

Overwatch has been a smash hit, helping first-year classes develop and published by Blizzard Entertainment, the same company behind the likes of World of Warcraft and Diablo III. The online-only game, which is available to play on Xbox One, PS4, PC, and Mac, has players from all over the world competing in a fast-paced, team-based battle royale. Players have a wide choice of characters to play as, most of which come with one or more special abilities or skills. "Overwatch" is a team-based game with a focus on strategy and teamwork. In the UK and Europe, PEGI rates Overwatch as PEGI 12, suitable for ages 12 and up, for non-violent, teasing violence towards human characters.

Talk to Strangers

Overwatch has a high degree of freedom, allowing players to talk to anyone who is online. This means that players who are not friends can talk to each other. This can be a good thing, as it allows players to help each other out. However, it can also be a bad thing, as it allows players to talk to strangers. This can be a risk, as players may be asked to provide personal information or to meet in person. Parents should talk to their children about the risks of talking to strangers and how to stay safe online.

Loot Boxes & In-app Purchases

Although Overwatch is a free-to-play game, it does contain loot boxes and in-app purchases. Loot boxes are virtual containers that contain random items, such as skins, emblems, and other cosmetic items. In-app purchases allow players to buy these items for real money. Parents should be aware of the risks of loot boxes and in-app purchases, as they can be addictive and expensive. Parents should talk to their children about the risks of loot boxes and in-app purchases and how to avoid them.

Mature Content

Overwatch is a 12+ rated game, which means it contains some mature content. This includes some violence, such as characters using weapons and abilities that can cause harm. There is also some language, such as mild profanity and sexual references. Parents should be aware of the mature content in Overwatch and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Aggressive Nature

Overwatch is a team-based game, which means that players are often competing against each other. This can lead to a competitive and aggressive nature. Some players may use abusive language or engage in harassment. Parents should be aware of the risks of playing a game with an aggressive nature and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with an aggressive nature. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with an aggressive nature on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Safety Tips

Monitor Their Gameplay

Parents should monitor their children's gameplay to ensure they are playing safely. This includes checking their children's friends list, chat history, and in-game purchases. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Avoid Headsets

Parents should encourage their children to avoid using headsets while playing Overwatch. This is because headsets can be used to communicate with other players, which can lead to harassment and abuse. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Limit Their Spending

Parents should limit their children's spending on Overwatch. This includes limiting the amount of money their children can spend on in-app purchases and loot boxes. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Enable Parental Controls

Parents should enable parental controls on their children's console or PC. This will allow them to restrict their children's access to certain features, such as online play and in-app purchases. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Spot the Signs

Parents should be aware of the signs of gaming addiction. This includes changes in behavior, such as spending more time playing the game and neglecting other activities. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content and talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Discuss the Risks

Parents should discuss the risks of playing Overwatch with their children. This includes the risks of talking to strangers, the risks of playing a game with mature content, and the risks of playing a game with an aggressive nature. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

Meet our expert

Charlotte is an expert on online safety and digital wellbeing. She has worked with schools and parents to help them understand the risks of playing games and how to stay safe online. She is also a member of the National Online Safety team. Parents should talk to their children about the risks of playing a game with mature content and how to stay safe online. Parents should also be aware of the risks of playing a game with mature content on a console, as the console may have a parental control system that can be bypassed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.gov.uk | Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety | Facebook: /nationalonlinesafety | Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

Northfield Community

THE BIG DIFFERENCE SCHEME

If you are a **Severn Trent Water** customer and require assistance, apply for help today

- You could receive up to 50% off the average Severn Trent water bill through the Big Difference Scheme
- Eligibility for the scheme is based on all household income (excluding housing entitlements)
- If you are eligible for income based free school meals, it's likely that you will qualify for the Big Difference Scheme

www.bigdiff.co.uk



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Book Reviews

The Carbon Diaries by Saci Lloyd

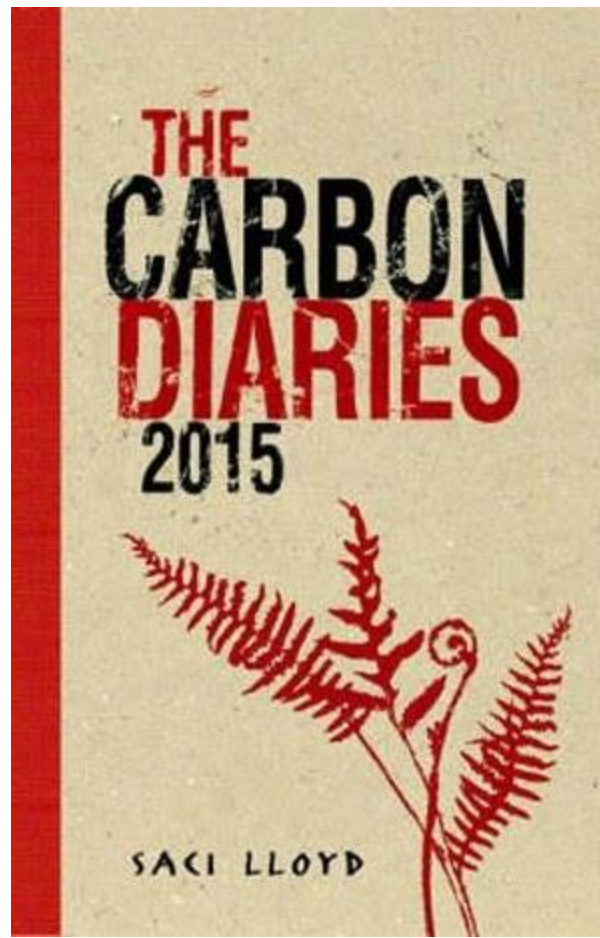
It's 2015 and the UK is the first nation to introduce carbon dioxide rations, in a drastic bid to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

As her family spirals rapidly out of control, Laura Brown chronicles the first year of rationing with scathing abandon.

Will her mother become one with her inner wolf? Does her father love the pig more than her? Can her band the dirty angels make it big?

And most importantly, will Ravi Datta ever love her?

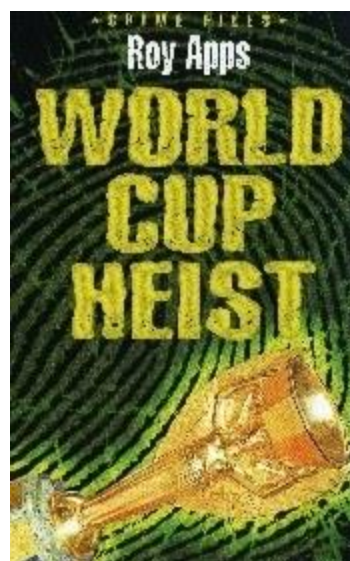
In these dark days, Laura deals with the issues that really matter: love, floods and pigs.



World Cup Heist by Roy Apps

In 1966, the year that England hosted the World Cup, the original World Cup trophy was on display in London. It was worth £30,000. Then, on one quiet Sunday afternoon, the trophy disappeared

Can the police find the trophy before the first game kicks off?



Curriculum

Food & Nutrition

Congratulations to Oliver Rogers and William Gaulton who have completed their Food Standards Agencies Certificate in Allergies and Intolerance

Miss Mansell's Factoids

1. One inch of rain is equal to 10 inches of snow
2. Chemist Glenn Seaborg was the only person who could write his address in chemical elements
3. Although oxygen gas is colourless, the liquid and solid forms of oxygen are blue
4. A rubber tyre is actually one single giant polymerised molecule
5. If you slowly pour a handful of salt into a completely full glass of water, it will not overflow. In fact, the water level will go down

Careers - *If you can dream it, you can do it!*

Important Dates:

Turner & Townsend. Degree Apprenticeship Quantity Surveying Closing 7th May 2021

BMW. Apprenticeships. <http://www.bmwgroup.jobs/uk> 14th March 2021

Severn Trent PLC. Advanced Apprenticeship Water Process Technician Closing 21st March

Fortem. Several construction trades. www.fortem.co.uk/opportunities Closing 19th March

Wilmott Dixon. Plumbing and Heating Apprenticeship. Details on website. Closing 19th March

Colleges will have spring term virtual events, check websites for details.

New Opportunities and Openings:

Johnson Control Building. Refrigeration and Air Con Apprenticeship Closing 31st March

WSP UK Ltd. Business Administration Advanced Apprenticeship. Closing 28th May 2021

Fortis Venture Ltd. Electrical Installation apprenticeship. Closing Date 19th March 2021

Blue Earth Foods Ltd. Advanced Apprenticeship Engineering. Closing Date 1st April 2021

MGTS. Engineering Apprenticeships Advanced Level . Closing Date 30th March 2021

Toyota. Advanced Apprenticeship Service and Maintenance Closing 30th May 2021

Johnson Control Building. Fire and Security Engineering Closing 31st March

MAKEUK. Several Engineering opportunities. www.makeuk.org/futuremakers

All Electric Skoda. Service Technician Advanced Apprenticeship. Closing 31st May 2021

Collins Aerospace. Engineering apprenticeship. Apply through MakeUK Closing 8th May

For further information on these apprenticeships: www.getingorfar.gov.uk and www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

You will have to register with these websites.

Useful Websites:

Exploring ideas, interests and skills

www.nationalcareersservicedirect.gov.uk

www.icould.com

www.bfi.org.uk - British Film Industry runs a national programme offering hands-on filmmaking.

Apprenticeships

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Higher Education

www.ucas.com

www.university.which.co.uk

www.whatuni.com

www.hecsu.ac.uk

Solihull College have virtual open events from 16th March to 25th

March <https://www.solihull.ac.uk/news-events/virtual-open-event/school-leaver-virtual-open-event/>

West Bromwich Albion Football Course trials taking place: Thursday 8th April 2021 – 10am-12pm Women – 1pm-3pm Men This for Sandwell College Education and Football Programme.

Pupils who are interested in trialling for this course can register via the link attached -

https://events.albionfoundation.co.uk/post_16_programme_-_expression_of_interest_01042021#init

If you have any questions please email

either schoolsliaison@sandwell.ac.uk or Neil.Parker@sandwell.ac.uk